Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:JHGLENN:LCB

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SOFIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 090359

FOR MCGEE FROM ANDREWS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OGEN

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL

REF: SOFIA 0582

1. POSSIBLE US NAVY SHIP VISIT. HARRY DUNLOP, DOD/ISA,
HAS INFORMED JIM GLENN THAT THE NAVY SHOULD HAVE A MESSAGE
READY FOR STATE ON A US NAVY SHIP VISIT TO VARNA BY THE
END OF THE WEEK. DUNLOP SAID THAT THE NAVY WOULD LIKE TO
PROPOSE A SHIP (NOT THE CHARLES F. ADAMS) VISIT VARNA
IN AUGUST (THAT TIME FOR REASONS OF ADMINISTRATIVE
CONVENIENCE). IF AUGUST IS NOT CONVENIENT, IT MAY BE
POSSIBLE TO RESCHEDULE THE VISIT FOR ANOTHER MONTH.
THE NAVY EVIDENTLY IS NOT CONSIDERING A VISIT TO A SOVIET
PORT AT THIS TIME BUT DOES PLAN TO SEND A SECOND SHIP TO
CONSTANTA, ROMANIA, IN AUGUST.

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2. VISIT OF BULGARIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH PATRIARCH MAXSIM
TO AKRON, OHIO, NEXT FALL. JIM HAS CHECKED WITH INR/RSE/EE
AND THE F.B.I. AND HAS LEARNED THAT THE PATRIARCH'S VISIT
TO AKRON HAS THE SUPPORT OF BOTH FACTIONS OF THE U.S.
ORTHODOX CHURCH. THE F.B.I. IS TASKING ITS CLEVELAND
OFFICE WITH AN ON-SITE APPRAISAL OF THE PRESENT SITUATION

AMONG THE DIFFERENT BULGARIAN ORTHODOX SECTS IN THE
AKRON AREA. WE WILL INFORM YOU THE RESULTS OF THAT
APPRAISAL WHEN THEY ARE AVAILABLE. AS OF NOW, WE SEE
NO REASON THAT THE VISIT SHOULD NOT TAKE PLACE.

3. WITH REFERENCE TO SHIP VISIT MENTIONED IN PARA. 1,
WE WONDER WHETHER THE FACT THAT THE NAVY IS NOT PLANNING
TO HAVE A SHIP VISIT A SOVIET PORT WOULD PRESENT AN
INSURMOUNTABLE OBSTACLE TO THE BULGARIAN VISIT IN TERMS
OF THE ATTITUDE OF THE GOB. A PRECEDENT DOES EXIST
FOR A US NAVY SHIP VISIT TO A SOVIET PORT. PLEASE GIVE
US YOUR ASSESSMENT EITHER VIA THIS CHANNEL OR, AFTER
YOUR RECEIPT OF THE NAVY MESSAGE MENTIONED IN PARA. 1,
BY REGULAR CHANNELS.   VANCE

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NNN

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